



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

207 STATE CAPITOL, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706

June 6, 2003

Dear Friend of the Literary Arts,

Illinois has long been recognized as a home of exemplary poets and writers. I am proud to support this historic tradition by selecting a new Poet Laureate for the state of Illinois. This individual will follow in the footsteps of previous Poet Laureates, Carl Sandburg and Gwendolyn Brooks, and will represent Illinois' diversity, celebrate its history, and support its arts. The new Poet Laureate will be a recognizable literary figure and a state citizen who will promote the many cultural and artistic achievements of our great state.

As citizens of Illinois, I invite you to be part of the process to nominate our next Poet Laureate. The attached information provides all the necessary guidelines for selecting this artist. I am excited that my wife Patti has agreed to chair the search committee to assist me in this selection. The committee, which represents Illinois' diverse literary community, will review your nominations and make recommendations to me for the final selection.

Illinois has a strong tradition of literary excellence. As a proud supporter of Illinois' arts, I am honored to have this opportunity to continue our tradition of literary excellence. This will certainly be an exciting process, and I thank you for your participation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rod R. Blagojevich". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rod Blagojevich

Governor